

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/867,158

Examiner

Yogesh C. Garg

Applicant(s)

WAKABAYASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/19/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,6,7 and 9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Yogesh C. Garg
Primary Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment received on 7/19/2005 is acknowledged and entered. The applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 6, 7 and 9 and canceled claims 2,4,5 and 8. Currently claims 1, 3, 6, 7 and 9 are pending for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7 and 9 are allowed. Claims 1 and 3 are independent. Claims 6-7 are dependencies of claim 1, and claim 9 is dependency of claim 3.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

3.1. For System Claims 1, and 6-7

The prior art of record neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches a computerized system for providing car sale information, comprising, *inter alia*, a checking unit which checks whether or not the car information input by the car information input device contains the inspection information corresponding to the car information, a number generating unit which generates a car management number in accordance with a predetermined rule if the car information input by the car information input device does not contain the inspection information, a registering unit which

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registers the input car information together with the car management number in the wait-for-registration database if the input car information does not contain the inspection information and which registers the input car information in the search database if the inputted car information contains the inspection information, an inspection indication output unit which searches the wait-for-registration database and which transmits inspection indicative information for prompting inspection of a car for which the car information does not contain the inspection information together with the car management number corresponding to said car information input by the input device to an inspector terminal, a receiving unit which receives the inspection information together with the car management number and which transfers the car information indicated by the received car management number to the search database from the wait-for-registration database, a search unit included within the host device which outputs an input screen in response to input conditions when searching the car information stored in said search database of said car information storage unit, and which searches based on conditions input via the input screen, and a car information output unit included within the host device which outputs display information, including a purchase indication interface which transmits car purchase information containing the searched car information and the car inspection information corresponding to the car information (see independent claim 1).

Applicant's remarks in the amendment filed on 7/19/2005 (see page 8, lines 1-10) are compelling and commensurate with the original disclosure (see pages 20-21).

3.2. ***For Method Claims 3, and 9***

The prior art of record neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches a computerized method for providing car sale information, comprising, *inter alia* the steps of checking whether or not the car information input contains the inspection information corresponding to the car information, generating a car management number in accordance with a predetermined rule if the car information input does not contain the inspection information, registering the input car information together with the car management number in the wait-for-registration database if the input car information does not contain the inspection information and registering the input car information in the search database if the input car information contains the inspection information, searching the wait-for-registration database and transmitting inspection indicative information for prompting an inspection of the car for which the car information does not contain the inspection information together with the car management number corresponding to said car information input to an inspector terminal, receiving the inspection information together with the car management number and transferring the car information indicated by the received car management number to the search database from the wait-for-registration database, outputting an input screen to a terminal device connected to the host device for searching the car information and searching based on conditions input via the input screen, displaying, on a terminal device connected to the host device, the searched car information and the car inspection information corresponding to the same car information, and transmitting car purchase information from the host device.

Applicant's remarks in the amendment filed on 7/19/2005 (see page 8, lines 1-10) are compelling and commensurate with the original disclosure (see pages 20-21).

4. Discussion of most relevant prior art:

(i) The following references have been identified as most relevant prior art to the claimed invention(s).

The most closely applicable prior art of record is Green et al. (US Patent 6,041,310), hereinafter, referred to Green. Green teaches a computerized method and system for conducting a transaction between a customer and a car dealership wherein the customer can input queries regarding car requirements and a storage device containing car data and images to return a selected information including images to the input/display device. The method also includes storing data for later access for market follow-up, financing and insurance applications. However, Green alone or in combination with other prior art fails to anticipate or render obvious the application's above-mentioned underlined unique features(s). See Applicant's arguments on pages 8-9 of the Amendment submitted on 7/19/2005:

" With respect to claim 1, Green does not disclose a checking unit which checks whether or not car information contains inspection information, a registering unit which registers the input car information together with a car management number in the wait-for-registration database if the input car information does not contain the inspection information, an inspection output unit which transmits inspection indicative information for prompting an inspection of a car for which the car information does not contain inspection information, or a receiving unit which receives the inspection information together with the car management number and which transfers the car information indicated by the received car management number to the search database from the wait-for-registration database.

With respect to claim 3, Green does not disclose a method which comprises checking whether or not car information contains inspection information, registering the input car information together with a car management number in the wait-for-registration database if the input car information does not contain the inspection information, transmitting inspection indicative information for prompting an inspection of a car for which the car information does not contain inspection information, or receiving the inspection

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information together with the car management number and transferring the car information indicated by the received car management number to the search database from the wait-for-registration database.

To be anticipating, a prior art reference must disclose each and every limitation of the claimed invention. Here, the system disclosed by Green neither teaches or suggests a system that transmits the car management number and inspection indicative information for prompting an inspection of a car for which the car information does not contain inspection information or receiving the inspection information together with the car management number and transferring the car information indicated by the received car management number to the search database from the wait-for-registration database.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that Green does not teach each and every element recited in amended claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection for claims 1 and 3, as well as for claims 6, 7 and 9, each of which ultimately depend on claim 1 or claim 3. "


(ii) EP 1286287A1 (see at least Abstract) to Yano et al. published on February 26, 2003 later than the filing date of the instant application and US Publication 2003/0105728 (see at least Abstract) to Yano et al. filed on May 25, 2001 filed later than the priority date claimed in the instant application discloses a method and system for analyzing a vehicle resale price by extracting data about the resold vehicles and using regression equation to estimate the sold and remaining prices. However, none of the cited prior arts teaches anticipates or renders obvious the application's above-mentioned underlined unique features(s).

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh C. Garg whose telephone number is 571-272-6756. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(8:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins can be reached on 571-272-7159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Yogesh C Garg
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3625

YCG
October 28, 2005